

January 4, 1951.

Dear Seymour:

We were very sorry that you had to cancel your trip, especially for the compelling reason. I hope that your insurance coverage was adequate, and that you will continue to be as lucky. But we've had a rather severe snowstorm, which would have made travelling around Madison difficult, so perhaps a later date is all for the better.

Just for the record, our phone is 5-5289 (Madison), and you can best reach us on a station to station call there, if the occasion should arise. During the day, you had best call person-to-person at the university, 5-3311, Ext. 4217. The least expensive means of fast communication is a "Night-Letter" (Western Union) which arrives overnight.

I just received a letter from Professor S. E. Luria, Department of Bacteriology, Illinois University which mentions your application to the Physico-Chemical Biology curriculum there. He took favorable note of your application, but suggests that you should perhaps also write to him directly for information on the opportunities in his department. The P-C B program is apparently aimed primarily at X-ray and photosynthesis specialties; I think that the Bact. program is probably more in line with your fundamental interests. Luria and his students have done some of the best biophysical research, and his colleague, Gunsalus, is perhaps the outstanding investigator of bacterial metabolism and enzymes. As your application stands now, Luria does not have access to it; without doubt, I suggest that you should at least write to him. Wherever you go, you should not regard yourself as permanently committed to the field in which you begin. Your best bet is to pick a school with diverse activities, begin your work in any good department, and then after a year make your final decision. You can do this quite well at either of the places you have chosen; I only refer you to Luria because this will expedite your finding a place from which you can best look around at the opportunities. Although I know Luria pretty well, and have a great admiration for him, I have not pulled any strings with him, and you can be sure that if you are accepted (and I think you will be) it will be on the basis of your own qualifications.

One point of information you never cleared up: are you using your GI bill now, or still putting it off?

Have a happy new year,

as always,